

Our tour starts here.

The historical collection was compiled by the Ontario Government between 1870 and 1940. Some of it was donated, but most pieces were purchased at art society exhibitions held throughout the province every year.

The collection today numbers close to 1,000 pieces, many of which are still in storage. Last year, the Ministry of Government Services began to restore some of the better paintings, give them new life, and display them at Queen's Park.

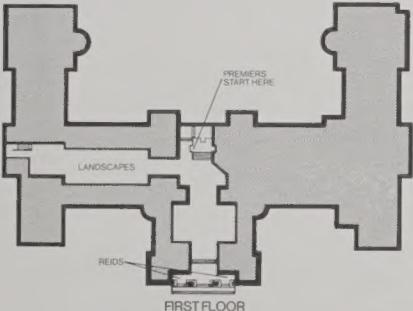
Today, you can view the finest works from Ontario's historical collection right here in the Legislative Building.

Just inside the door.

At the main entrance of the building you can see two large paintings by G. A. Reid in which he recreated life in Ontario more than 150 years ago. They are "The Homeseekers" (on your right as you face in), and "The Coming of the White Man" (on your left).

Walking further inside you will see portraits of leading figures in our province's history, all painted by J. W. L. Forster, a fashionable Toronto portraitist at the turn of the century.

His pictures include: General Isaac Brock, hero of the War of 1812; John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada (now Ontario) and convenor of the first Parliament in 1792 at Newark (now Niagara-on-the-Lake); and the famous William Lyon Mackenzie, the first Mayor of Toronto, and a Member of the Provincial Parliament from 1828 to 1858.



Also on the west wing of the first floor are many landscape paintings. These and most others in the building were painted by artists who strongly influenced Canada's first widely recognized school of painting, the Group of Seven.

Now, up the main staircase.

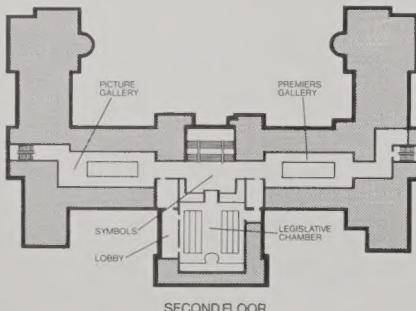
The Premier's Gallery begins here and continues along the east wing of the second floor. It includes portraits of Edward Blake and the famous Robert Harris portrait of Oliver Mowat (who opened the present building in 1893). Outside the Legislative Chamber are portraits of Sir Sandfield Macdonald, our first Premier following Confederation in 1867, and the Hon. John Stevenson, the first Speaker of the House.

In the opposite direction, on the west wing, you'll find some of the finest paintings by early Ontario artists, such as William Atkinson, Arthur Hemming, Edmund Morris, Lucius O'Brien, Gertrude Spurr, and the noted Quebec painter and sculptor, Aurèle de Foy Suzor-Coté.

Symbols.

At the top of the main staircase, the Historic Symbols of Parliament await you. Outside the Chamber Door is the Mace of Upper Canada.

Ordered by Simcoe and used at the first Parliament in Newark, it was carried ceremoniously to York (now Toronto) for the first session of Parliament ever held here in 1796. Then



the Americans stole it when they burned down the York Parliament Buildings in 1813.

It was returned in 1934 by President F. D. Roosevelt as part of Toronto's 100th anniversary celebrations. Compare it to the gilded copper Mace of Ontario that's been used since 1867.

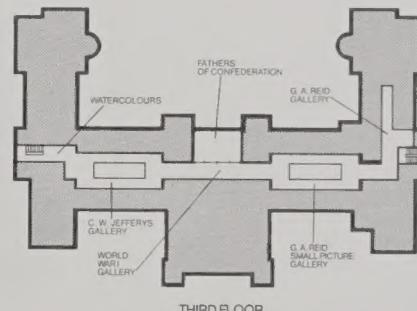
Now take a look at the robes of office worn by the Lieutenant-Governor, the Speaker of the House, the Clerk of the House, and the Pages. Also on view are the ceremonial sword worn by the Sergeant at Arms, the Great Seal of Ontario, two antique Speaker's chairs, and the various books and ceremonial articles that form such a vital part of our parliamentary heritage.

A number of items inside the Chamber, such as the Clerk's table and chair, were brought up from the old Parliament Buildings on Front Street, which served as the Ontario Legislature from 1832 to 1893.

One more flight.

On the west wing of the third floor you'll find one of the most beautiful and comprehensive collections of Canadian water-colour paintings ever assembled in the province. You'll also find the G. A. Reid Gallery. In 1944, noted Ontario artist George Agnew Reid (1860-1947) donated 45 of his own works of art to the people of Ontario. Some small sketches were circulated in travelling exhibitions to schools across the province, and are now on view at Queen's Park.

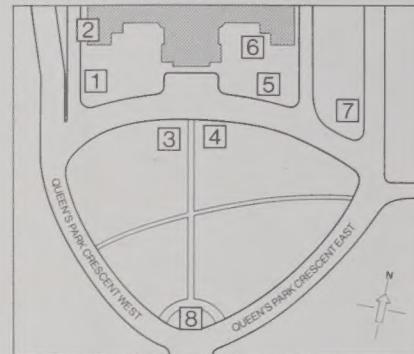
Also on the west wing is the C. W. Jefferys Gallery which contains many of the original drawings that were reproduced by the thousands in primers and history textbooks for every Ontario school.



Standing tall.

Outside the Legislative Buildings are eight different statues and monuments that form part of the historical art collection.

The map below will guide you to each one:



1. SIR OLIVER MOWAT. Premier of Ontario from 1872 to 1896, who opened the present buildings in 1893.

2. WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE. The first Mayor of Toronto. Compare it to the Mackenzie portrait in the main lobby by Forster.

3. HON. GEORGE BROWN. One of the Fathers of Confederation and founder of the "Globe" newspaper in 1844.

4. SIR JAMES PLINY WHITNEY. Premier of Ontario from 1905 to 1914.

5. QUEEN VICTORIA. Queen of England (and what is now Canada) from 1837 to 1901.

6. HON. JOHN SANDFIELD MACDONALD. First Premier of Ontario after Confederation, from 1867 to 1871.

7. GOVERNOR JOHN GRAVES SIMCOE. The first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada (now Ontario) between 1791 and 1796, and founder of the City of Toronto, July 30, 1793.

8. RT. HON. JOHN A. MACDONALD. The first Prime Minister of Canada in 1867. (Later SIR JOHN A.).

PORTRAITS OF OUR PROVINCE

The Government of Ontario Historical Art Collection.

Legislative Building,
Queen's Park,
Toronto, Ontario.

Officially opened on July 1, 1978
by the Hon. Pauline McGibbon, Lieutenant-Governor,
and the Hon. William G. Davis, Premier.

Organized by the Planning and Design Services Branch
Ministry of Government Services
Hon. Lorne Henderson
Minister

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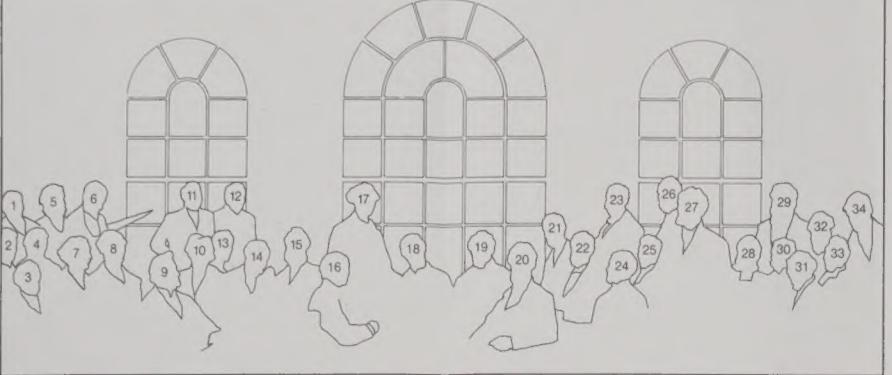
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Take a break
and enjoy the best
of Ontario's Historical Art Collection –
over 300 paintings, sketches and statues
of the land, the men and the women
who built our province
over the past 150 years.
It's family entertainment.
So please join us inside.

DEPOSITORY LIBRARY MATERIAL

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The Fathers of Confederation.

Perhaps the most famous of all Canadian paintings, this is one of only two known copies of the original "Fathers" painted by Robert Harris in 1883, but destroyed by the fire of the Parliament buildings in Ottawa in 1916.

This copy by Frederick S. Challener portrays the men who attended the Quebec Conference of 1864, where the six provinces agreed to become a single country called Canada.

1. HEWITT BERNARD, Secretary
2. W. H. STEEVES, New Brunswick
3. EDWARD WHELAN, Prince Edward Island
4. CHARLES FISHER, New Brunswick
5. W. A. HENRY, Nova Scotia
6. EDWARD PALMER, Prince Edward Island
7. COL. J. H. GRAY, Prince Edward Island
8. GEORGE COLES, Prince Edward Island
9. S. L. TILLEY, New Brunswick
10. J. C. CHAPAIS, Canada East
11. F. B. T. CARTER, Newfoundland
12. AMBROSE SHEA, Newfoundland
13. E. B. CHANDLER, New Brunswick
14. ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, Canada West
15. A. G. ARCHIBALD, Nova Scotia
16. HECTOR LANGEVIN, Canada East
17. JOHN A. MACDONALD, Canada West
18. GEORGE E. CARTIER, Canada East
19. SIR ETIENNE TACHÉ, Canada East
20. GEORGE BROWN, Canada West
21. T. H. HAVILAND, Prince Edward Island
22. ALEXANDER T. GALT, Canada East
23. PETER MITCHELL, New Brunswick
24. OLIVER MOWAT, Canada West
25. JAMES COCKBURN, Canada West
26. R. B. DICKEY, Nova Scotia
27. CHARLES TUPPER, Nova Scotia
28. J. H. GRAY, New Brunswick
29. W. H. POPE, Prince Edward Island
30. WILLIAM McDougall, Canada West
31. T. D'ARCY McGEE, Canada East
32. A. A. MACDONALD, Prince Edward Island
33. JONATHAN McCULLY, Nova Scotia
34. J. M. JOHNSTON, New Brunswick



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